These include Anti Material Rifle, Hand Held Thermal Imager, Hand Held IOE, Battlefield Surveillance Radar (MR), Battlefield Surveillance Radar(SR), all of which will be delivered in periods commencing from December, 1999. 327.5Km roads are also being surfaced at different places in this sector.

Recruitment in Army from Punjab

2146. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that army recruitment was done during the Kargil War recently;

(b) if so, whether the same exercise was undertaken in Punjab also;

(c) if so, the number of persons recruited from that State; and

(d) the number of persons recruited from the sikh community?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Only planned normal recruitment was carried out all over India during the Kargil conflict; there was no special recruitment. As part of the normal recruitment process, a total of 2135 Jawans were recruited from Punjab State during the period 1.4.99 to 31.10.99, of whom 1580 are Sikhs.

Underground posts and platforms on the border

†2147. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistanis making some underground posts and raised platforms on the border;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these raised platforms are being made for espionage; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) The matter has been taken up locally by the BSF with the Pakistan rangers.

News-item "Dark Dealers still Seal Defence Deals"

2148. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the Pioneer dated November 21, 1999 captioned, "Dark Dealers still seal Defence Deals";

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government are ready to deny specific cases mentioned in the news-item?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On receipt of a complaint alleging irregularities in certain naval procurements, the matter was got investigated. Further action on the findings contained in the investigation reports has been initiated.

Upgradation of Technology in Navy

2149. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chief of the Naval Staff has submitted a report to Government making extensive recommendations regarding upgradation of technology and modernisation of training programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to prepare perspective plan for the development of Navy to enable it to face its new challenge in the next century?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Modernisation and Development of Navy is an ongoing process dictated primarily by the threat perceptions and prevailing external strategic/security environment as also the emerging technologies. With increased emphasis on induction of high technology, naval platforms are programmed for periodic upgradation in technology.

Decline in Teaching Standards of IAF School

†2150. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether senior secondary school at Race Course in New Delhi is being run by Indian Air Force; if so, the number of such type of schools and the officials appointed for their management;

(b) whether the standard of teaching and level of discipline in the above school at Race Course have been declining for the last two years; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to improve the standard of education and provide other facilities in the above schools; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. The Senior Secondary School at Race Course is being run by the Indian Air Force with

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.